



MAKE YOUR HOME A



**SAFE
HAVEN**

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

MAKE YOUR HOME A SAFE HAVEN

PROJECT SAFE HAVEN is a safety self-inspection activity for Saint Paul homeowners sponsored by the Saint Paul Fire Department. We invite you to use this checklist to survey your home for safety. Any “NO” answer presents a hazard so take steps to correct the situation and make your home a SAFE HAVEN.

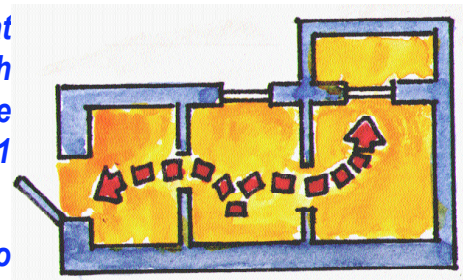


Afterwards, complete the SAFE HAVEN CITIZEN REQUEST FORM at the end of the checklist and mail, FAX, or email it to the Saint Paul Fire Department. Someone will contact you to schedule a visit to verify that your smoke alarms are working, that you have a carbon monoxide detector, and a fire escape plan. While supplies last, we have free smoke alarms and free carbon monoxide detectors, if needed. Questions? [Call 651-228-6273](tel:651-228-6273).

SAFE HAVEN CHECKLIST

SAFETY PRACTICES

MOST DEADLY FIRES HAPPEN WHEN PEOPLE ARE ASLEEP. People at highest risk of dying in a fire are young children, elderly, people with disabilities, and those who smoke, use alcohol, abuse drugs or take medications that cause drowsiness. Smoker's materials are the #1 cause of fire deaths.



People who sleep in basements without two ways to escape fire are also at high risk. Minnesota law requires that to be a legal sleeping area there must be a 2nd exit. In most cases, this is a window which must be at least 20" wide x 24" high with the open area of at least 5 square feet. The window cannot be more than 48" from the floor.

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are there at least two ways to get out of each sleeping area in case of fire or other emergency? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you developed and practiced a fire escape plan? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does your family know to crawl low in smoke to get outside in case of a fire? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have an outdoor meeting place that is a permanent fixture or structure? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do smokers use large ashtrays, check furniture for cigarette butts, and never smoke in bed? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Does everyone in your family know to put cool water on minor burns? |



GENERAL SAFETY

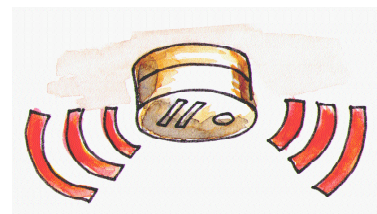
SIXTY-FIVE PERCENT OF HOME FIRE DEATHS RESULT FROM FIRES IN HOMES WITH NO WORKING SMOKE ALARMS. Smoke alarms are required in every home and apartment. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all sound. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. Both types of alarms improve home fire protection. Mounting them on the ceiling is best. They can be mounted on the wall as long as they are not closer than 6 inches and not further than 12 inches from the ceiling. Hardwired smoke alarms are preferred, although battery-power smoke alarms are acceptable. Smoke alarms, like other household appliances wear out over time. When you install them, write the date of installation on the alarm and when alarms approach 10 years old, replace them. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.

Yes No

☐ ☐ Do you have a working smoke alarm on each level, in all sleeping areas, and have you tested them in the last month and replaced batteries in 9-volt alarms within the last year?

☐ ☐ Are your smoke alarms less than 10 years old?

☐ ☐ Does everyone in your home, including visitors, know what to do if the smoke alarm sounds?



CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTORS ARE ALSO REQUIRED IN EVERY MINNESOTA HOME.

CO detectors should be located within 10 feet of the entrance to EACH room used for sleeping. They can be located either on the ceiling or on the wall. Replace CO detectors after 5 years. If the CO detector alarm sounds, GET OUT and CALL 911.

☐ ☐ Do you have a working carbon monoxide detector located within 10 feet of where you sleep?

☐ ☐ Is your carbon monoxide detector less than 5 years old?

☐ ☐ Does everyone in your home, even visitors, know what to do if the CO detector sounds?

EMERGENCY WORKERS MAY HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING YOUR HOUSE IF ADDRESS NUMBERS ARE NOT CLEARLY VISIBLE.

☐ ☐ Are house numbers visible from the street and the alley?



☐ ☐ Are all space heaters UL approved, in safe condition, and at least three (3) feet away from anything that can burn?

☐ ☐ If you have a fireplace, does it have a screen; have you had your chimney professionally cleaned within the last year; and do you use metal containers to discard fireplace ashes?

☐ ☐ Do you clean out the dryer lint collector every time you use the dryer?

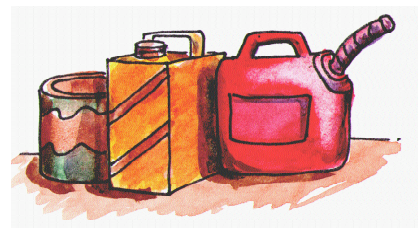


Yes No

☐ ☐ Are flammable liquids such as gasoline stored in safety containers in a garage or shed outside?

☐ ☐ Are matches and lighters kept out of sight and reach of children?

☐ ☐ Do you know that the Fire Department offers a free program for children who play with fire? For information on the Fire Play Intervention Program, [call 651-228-6203](tel:651-228-6203).



FALLS ARE A LEADING CAUSE OF INJURIES IN THE HOME YET ARE EASILY PREVENTED.

Yes No

☐ ☐ Are stairways, railings, porches, and balconies sturdy and in good repair?

☐ ☐ Are walkways in rooms, halls, and stairways clear from obstructions and well lit?

☐ ☐ Do all throw rugs have a non-skid surface underneath to prevent falls?



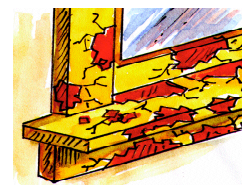
MANY OTHER HAZARDS ENDANGER YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. *Lead paint and other poisons, improperly stored guns and ammunition, and drowning hazards are all potentially dangerous.*

Yes No

☐ ☐ Is your home free of any chipping or peeling paint? (Children can be poisoned by lead paint.)

☐ ☐ Are guns or rifles and ammunition stored safely? (Guns should be stored unloaded with guns and ammunition in separate locked cabinets.)

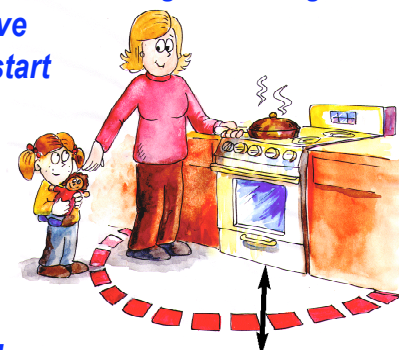
☐ ☐ Is standing water such as pools, ditches, and five-gallon buckets, and toilets, inaccessible to unsupervised children?



KITCHEN SAFETY

COOKING FIRES ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF HOME FIRES AND FIRE INJURIES.

They account for 60% of all reported home structure fires and 36% of fire related injuries. Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of fires in Saint Paul. Your best protection is to prevent cooking fires altogether. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, for even a short period of time, turn the stove off. Many fires start because people don't stay in the kitchen while frying foods. You can lower fire risk by using a fryer with a thermostat control that shuts it off when contents get too hot. In the event of a kitchen fire, the National Fire Protection Association recommends that you do NOT attempt to extinguish a cooking fire because of the increased risk of serious injury. There are however, automatic stovetop fire extinguishers available for home use. These devices are flame activated and use gravity to release a dry chemical on stovetop fires. You can check them out at www.stovetopfirestop.com. To prevent scalds and other burns to children, declare a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the stove.



3 foot Kid-Free Zone



Yes No

- ☐ ☐ Do you stay in the kitchen area while cooking?
- ☐ ☐ Are paper towels, hot pads, dish towels, or other items that can burn kept off the stove and out of the oven?
- ☐ ☐ Are hot liquids (such as coffee) and hot foods placed out of children's reach?
- ☐ ☐ Are back burners used for cooking and are pot handles turned inward?
- ☐ ☐ Is the microwave properly used and is food tested for temperature before being eaten?
- ☐ ☐ Do you avoid wearing long loose sleeves that might catch on fire while cooking?



OUTDOOR COOKING PRESENTS A DIFFERENT SET OF HAZARDS.

A few tips: Gas and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. Never use gasoline to start charcoal. Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and overhanging branches, leaves, or anything else that can burn. Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot 'kid-free zone' around the grill. Remove grease buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited when the grill is hot. Never discard used coals in a paper bag or other combustible (burnable) container – they may appear cool but can reignite and cause a fire.

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ Is the grill placed well away from anything that can burn such as siding, leaves, branches, etc.?
- ☐ ☐ Do you use charcoal lighter fluid correctly by soaking cold unlit coals **before** lighting them?
- ☐ ☐ Are children and pets kept away from hot grills?
- ☐ ☐ Do you keep your grill clean and free from grease build-up?
- ☐ ☐ Do you discard used coals in a metal container?



BATHROOM SAFETY

THE BATHROOM HARBORS MANY RISKS. Hot water can scald, medications can poison family members, hair dryers and curling irons can cause electrocution if immersed in water and slippery surfaces can lead to debilitating falls.

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ Is hot water adjusted between 110° and 120° F to prevent tap water scalds?
- ☐ ☐ Are medicines and vitamins stored out of children's reach or in a cabinet with a safety latch or lock?



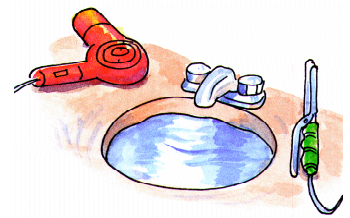
Yes No

☐ ☐

Are electrical appliances (curling irons, hair dryers, space heaters) kept away from water, unplugged after each use, and out of children's reach?

☐ ☐

Are there non-skid strips or a mat on the floor of the bathtub to prevent falls?



CHILD SAFETY

IF YOU HAVE YOUNG CHILDREN THAT LIVE WITH OR VISIT YOU, EXTRA CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT INJURIES. Make sure the babysitter knows what to do in case of fire - have two ways out, go to the family's meeting place and call 911. Also, be aware of practices and hazards that can cause motor vehicle injuries, falls, suffocation, poisoning, choking and strangulation. Motor vehicle accidents are the #1 cause of death to children and a leading cause of death for adults. Kids under 13 years old should ride in the back seat and should be in the appropriate car seat, booster seat, or seat belt. Newborns and infants to 1 year old and up to 20 pounds belong in a rear facing car seat. Children 1 – 4 years old belong in a forward-facing convertible or combination car seat with harness. Experts recommend that you keep infants rear facing for as long as the seat allows. Booster seats are required for children 4 – 8 years old and 40 – 80 pounds. Seat belts are for children over 8 years old and 57" (4'9") tall. To schedule an appointment to have a car seat checked, call 651-266-5876 or visit www.carseatsmadesimple.org for information on fitting a car seat.

Yes No

☐ ☐

Are age-appropriate child car seats used when children are riding in motor vehicles?

☐ ☐

Do all the adults in your household wear seatbelts while riding in motor vehicles?

☐ ☐

Is the babysitter instructed in case of fire or other emergencies?

☐ ☐

Is the baby always placed on his/her back to sleep?

☐ ☐

Does the baby always sleep alone in a safe crib-type bed?

☐ ☐

Is the baby's bed free of pillows, soft fluffy blankets, quilts, comforters, and stuffed toys?

☐ ☐

Is the crib mattress firm and snugly fit?

☐ ☐

Are crib slats no more than 2 3/8 inches (6 centimeters apart)?

☐ ☐

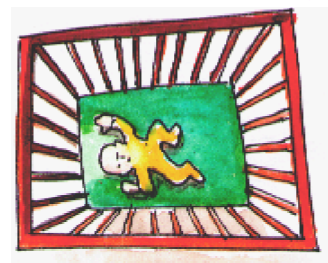
Are windows locked or blocked to keep children from falling out?

☐ ☐

Are cordless window shades used in children's sleeping areas? For information on ways to prevent strangulation or to order a free kit to retrofit looped shade pulls go to www.windowcoverings.org.

☐ ☐

Are plastic bags, balloons, small pieces of food, small objects, small toys, and long or hanging cords out of children's reach to prevent choking?



2-3/8 Inches
(6 cm) maximum



SAINT PAUL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Timothy M. Butler, Fire Chief



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

*645 Randolph Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102*

*Telephone: 651-224-7811
Facsimile: 651-228-6255*

Dear Saint Paul Resident,

Congratulations! You have just taken steps to make your home a Safe Haven. I invite you to complete the form on the next page and return it to the Saint Paul Fire Department so we can schedule a visit. A fire crew will check your alarms and install free smoke alarms and a carbon monoxide detector, if needed.

We look forward to serving you and pledge to do everything possible to ensure your safety and good health.

Sincerely

Timothy M. Butler
Fire Chief



SAFE HAVEN CITIZEN REQUEST FORM

Yes, I would like to have a Fire Department representative contact me to schedule a visit. I understand that I will be asked to sign a program waiver for any fire safety equipment or information provided. I also understand the program is open to homeowners in Saint Paul, MN.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

Saint Paul, MN Zip _____

Phone (required) _____

Email _____

Number of adults in household: _____ Number of Children: _____ Ages: _____

Optional: (To be used for summary reporting only. Identifying information will be kept confidential.)

Please check:

☐ White ☐ African-American ☐ Hispanic ☐ Asian ☐ Native American ☐ Other

The Saint Paul Fire Department has free smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, while supplies last. If either is needed, the fire company assigned to you will deliver and install them for you.

Do you need a free smoke alarm? ☐ yes ☐ no

Do you need a free carbon monoxide detector? ☐ yes ☐ no

Would you like to receive additional safety information? ☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, check topics:

_____ burn prevention

_____ cooking safety

_____ general fire safety tips

_____ fire prevention for seniors

_____ falls prevention for seniors

_____ fire escape planning

_____ fire safety for young children

_____ fire play prevention

_____ fire safety information for people with disabilities



Cut and send this to:
Mail:

FAX:
Email:
Questions? Call

Project Safe Haven
645 Randolph Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102

651-228-6241
fireevents@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-228-6273



FOR OFFICE USE	
Date Received	_____
Sent to:	_____
District/Shift:	_____
On Date:	_____
Visit Completed.	_____
Date:	_____
Unable to contact.	_____
Date:	_____

CUT HERE

Make Your Home a
SAFE HAVEN

